

PEN PICTURE OF REED

He Is an Autocrat, But a Very Pleasant Man to Meet.

When Not Exercising His Functions as Speaker He Is Lovable, Full of Fun, Genial and Unusually Entertaining.

[Special Washington Letter.] Thomas Brackett Reed, speaker of the national house of representatives, is possessed of autocratic power. Politicians and editors throughout the country have made all manner of comment concerning him and his methods; but only those who are perfectly familiar with congressional affairs can understand the real situation. It is true that the speaker has complete mastery of the house of representatives, and that he exercises his au-



THOMAS B. REED.
(How He Looked at the Beginning of His Congressional Career.)

thority as ruthlessly as the czar of Russia controls his broad domain. Speaker Reed has often been called the czar because of his determined character; but there is a vast difference between the real czar and the man who rules our house of representatives.

The czar of Russia was born to power; and by divine right wields that power as long as he lives. The speaker of the house of representatives exercises complete power within his legislative domain; but that power is conferred upon him by a majority of the house of representatives. Whenever at any time the speaker goes beyond that which is deemed right and proper by the majority he may be deposed and another representative be elected in his place. Therefore it must be understood that so long as Speaker Reed exerts such wonderful power in the national house of representatives he is simply the mouthpiece of the majority and his every act has their sanction.

The people are apt to form erroneous opinions concerning men whose names are seen in print. If half the stories in criticism of big Tom Reed were true, the people might well believe him to be a sort of hobgoblin or other fearsome creature. But, as a matter of fact, his individuality is such that he is really a lovable character.

This great man from the Pine Tree state is not an accident, but a growth. When he first came to congress he was on a par with every other representative of the people. At that time he attracted attention only because he was a large man physically. His large round head was covered with a crop of silken auburn hair, and on his upper lip there grew a delicate little boyish mustache. To-day he is bald, without a mustache, and his general appearance in some degree warranted the jocular appellation which was given him by Amos Cummings, "the moon-faced czar."

During all the years of his continuous service Mr. Reed increased in strength, and every year he more and more commanded attention for his intellectual abilities. As he grew in knowledge of parliamentary law and legislative procedure he assumed prominence in all debates. Moreover, it became apparent to all of his associates that he was a growing man and a strong man, whose arguments usually demonstrated that he was reaching correct conclusions. His fellow representatives began to consult him and seek his advice on all important occasions, so that after a lapse of years he gradually grew into the confidence of the strong men of his party, until leadership was given him by election to the speakership.

As the leading republican member of the committee on ways and means, in the Forty-ninth and Fifty-first congresses, Mr. Reed was recognized as the floor leader of his party. When the Fifty-first congress convened, with a small republican majority, Mr. Reed was a candidate for the speakership. The other candidates were Mr. Burrows, of Michigan; Mr. Henderson, of Iowa, and Maj. McKinley, of Ohio. The contest was a warm one for about ten days, and when the republican caucus met Mr. Reed had a majority over all, and was elected speaker. Very soon after assuming the chair he made a rule concerning a quorum of the house of representatives which excited a bitter controversy of a virulent partisan character. He claimed that under the constitution of the United States when there was a quorum visible the house could do business. Previous to that time it had been generally understood that there must be a quorum "present and voting."

Mr. Reed maintained that it was only necessary to have a quorum "present."

Therefore although the minority members were present and declined to vote, Mr. Reed called those present by name and caused the clerk to mark them down as "present and not voting." But the mere fact that they were present made up the quorum, which is a majority of the house, and business proceeded. Two or three years afterwards this interpretation of the constitution was indorsed by the supreme court of the United States, and also by the democratic party when it had a majority in the house of representatives.

When Mr. Reed, as speaker of the house of representatives, announced the chairmen and members of the committees of the house, he appointed Maj. McKinley chairman of the committee on ways and means. A tariff bill was passed which was called the McKinley bill. All bills of that character are named after the chairmen of the committees in which they originate. Although Speaker Reed was the recognized leader of his party the McKinley bill was spoken of so often in print that the reputation of Maj. McKinley became national, and that fact was largely instrumental in bringing about his subsequent election as governor of Ohio and president of the United States. There are a great many "ifs" in the political world, and one of them most often used by friends of Tom Reed goes with the expression: "If McKinley had been elected speaker of the Fifty-first congress, and Tom Reed had been made chairman of ways and means, as he would have been, the country would have had a tariff bill called the Reed bill, and Tom Reed might have reached the presidency as McKinley reached it."

The speaker of the house of representatives occupies an exalted position. It is very difficult to secure access to him. Strangers in Washington must have their representatives or senators go to his office room with them in order to pass the door where a sable messenger guards the entrance. By the way, that messenger is the son of an African-American Methodist Episcopal bishop. There is no assumption of authority in this official condition. Speaker Reed is obliged to be exclusive and bar the public out, because he has so much business to attend to that he cannot have time to indulge in social greetings. Nevertheless, whenever a senator or member of congress goes to his office, the door is promptly opened and the visitors are permitted to enter. Everybody who calls with a right to enter his room finds there a genial gentleman, who is one of the most entertaining men in this country; or, for that matter, in the world.

Just a few months ago, a distinguished editor in a northwestern city visited Washington with his daughter-in-law, and was viewing the rotunda of the capitol when Speaker Reed passed through that spacious place. A newspaper man who is well acquainted with



THOMAS B. REED.
(From the Latest Portrait of the Speaker of the House.)

Mr. Reed called to him and said: "Are you in very much of a hurry?" "I am always in a hurry," said Mr. Reed, "but I can steal a little time for a friend even when I am busy."

"Well, I want to introduce a couple of friends who are visiting Washington for the first and only time in their lives," said the newspaper man.

"In such a case," said Mr. Reed, "I will steal an hour if necessary. I am always glad to meet people who come to the capital city of their country."

Then, taking the hand of the northwestern editor and his daughter-in-law, Mr. Reed said: "I must congratulate you on your good fortune. You are seeing the national capital on a day when the weather is good, and your sight-seeing cannot be interrupted by heavy, cloudy skies, or disagreeable fogs and drizzling rains. It is always a pleasure to me to meet with visitors here."

No man in private life, in a blacksmith shop, in a carpenter shop, a clerk in a store or a worker in a machine shop could have been more affable and polite and agreeable than was this big man from Maine, when introduced to strangers who were viewing the capitol building in the capital city. He is a very strong man and a very conservative man, but he is, all the time, a gentle man.

SMITH D. FRY.
Oh, Lost Youth.
Warwick—Your son has no expensive habits, I believe.
Wickwire—He hasn't? That boy has had the bicycle sundry habit for over three years, and last month was exposed to the kodak habit. He's making the parlor over into a dark room now.
—N. Y. Journal.

GRANT'S ILLNESS.

Said Not to Have Been Due Entirely to Tobacco—Cancer from Pipe Smoking.

Notwithstanding all the good arguments that have been offered against the evils of excessive smoking, it can hardly be claimed that the habit is entirely responsible for the production of cancer of the lips, mouth or throat, says the New York Herald. Since the illness of Gen. Grant it has been the popular belief that the dreaded disease from which he suffered was caused by his overindulgence in tobacco. Thus it may be easy to believe from a report that another victim of tobacco has been added to the long list of similar sufferers.

The facts, however, in these cases do not by any means confirm the theory. It was well settled in Gen. Grant's case that tobacco in itself was not the initiative cause of his throat trouble, but merely induced a subsequent aggravation of symptoms by the extra irritation of the smoke passing over the already diseased surface.

It is quite true that cancer of the lips is very common among pipe smokers, but the real factor of harm is not the tobacco or any special poison it may contain, but the persistent, localized irritation of the pipestem. Clay pipes, above all others, are particularly harmful, as they are the most easily heated, have a rough surface for the lip, are

TIN MUSIC ALONG SHORE.

Life-Savers of the Jersey Coast Introduce Graphophones Just for Fun.

Many of the life-saving stations along the New Jersey coast have tin music on tap to keep out the roar of the ocean and the whistle of the cold winds. The little graphophones with the tin megaphones are much in evidence. The stations at Shark river, Spring lake, Squan beach, Bayhead, Mantoloking, Toms river and Island beach have all been enjoying metropolitan amusements at long range. Every station own a cylinder that cheerily tells about the high temperature on one night in an old town. When the winds sweep up the beach at 70 and 80 miles an hour those who staid indoors kept the "hot-time" cylinder doing double duty, until it was a question whether the graphophone or the stove was the warmest thing around.

When the crew at Squan station saw an advertisement of the talking and singing machines two cents was invested at once for a catalogue and a cheap one was bought on speculation. As soon as it arrived there were continuous entertainments. The telephones were opened, and some of the good things were shared with the life-savers up and down the beach. The idea spread like contagion, and now there is a graphophone society along the New Jersey beach. Each station buys a cyl-

TOO MUCH FOR HIM.

So Long Since His Last Visit He Had Forgotten How to Behave Himself in Church.

For ten long years he had not been to church. One Sunday morning he concluded to lay aside his heathenish ways and surprise the rector. He is naturally of a timid disposition when it comes to publicity, and with a sweet girl friend hanging to his arms, his best suit of clothes on, a collar higher than usual and the prospect of meeting a number of friends who he knew would be ready to guy him, he was anything but comfortable when he walked into the church and was shown to a seat near the front by the usher, says the Louisville Commercial.

For an hour he managed to stand it, but it was an awful strain. The perspiration oozed out and wilted his collar; it dripped from his finger tips; there was a hot time in the old church for him.

He glanced behind him and noticed that his friends were smiling. Then he concluded something was wrong with his apparel. He feared it might be his hair had not been combed. At communion he could stand it no longer, and he asked the fair girl if she was ready to go. She assented and they hurried out. As he went the smiles on the faces of his friends deepened, and here and there one of them made a peculiar motion. He had forgotten his overcoat in

MAP OF HAVANA AND HAVANA HARBOR, SHOWING FORTIFICATIONS AND COAST LINE.



CHICAGO RECORD.

mostly used by persistent smokers and are usually held stationary on one side of the mouth, all of which tends to focalize and intensify the irritation which determines the malignant growth. The first indication of the disease is a watery patch on the lip at the usual point of contact with the pipestem. When discovered early it is perfectly amenable to surgical treatment, the percentage of cures being larger than that of any other form of cancer.

How Peking Is Lighted.
Peking is advancing. So at least one gathers from the Peking and Tientsin Times, which announces that a couple of gas lamps and three petroleum lamps now illuminate the capital of the celestial kingdom. This unwonted departure, however, is not due to native enterprise. The gas lights are set up in front of the Russian embassy, while the three lesser luminaries shine for the benefit of the customers of the Russo-Chinese bank. Throughout the rest of the city wayfarers still have to follow their noses as soon as darkness sets in.

Refreshments in Scotland.
In the course of the arguments before the house of lords in a case in which the necessity for additional refreshment accommodation at Oban Station arose, Lord Watson, himself a Scotsman, interposed and remarked that refreshments in that part of Scotland had only one meaning, and that—whisky.

Pineapple for Dyspepsia.
An Italian doctor has discovered that there is in the common pineapple a substance similar to pepsin, and that one pineapple is sufficient to digest ten pounds of beef.

Dog Turns a Grindstone.
A one-legged knife grinder in Philadelphia has taught a Newfoundland dog to turn his grindstone.

inder every four weeks and exchanges it along the line, and in this way there is a change of programme weekly in each station.

A Mixed Race.
Not all Americans are Anglo-Saxon. Even in the south, where the proportion of people drawn from that source is greatest, there are strong infusions of French, Irish and Scotch-Irish blood. In the west are extensive German, Irish and Scandinavian populations, in the east a vast Irish population, a large Canadian French element and an immense number of Germans. Even what is called the Anglo-Saxon stock is mixed with Dutch, Huguenot and Scottish contributions. When this country has fighting to do she does not look to one race among her people, but to all, and her foreign relations cannot be planted on the affinities of Anglo-Americans or any other ethnic element.

Monitors of '61.
Curious pan-cakey-looking vessels were the ironclads that bombarded Charleston in the late unpleasantness. That bombardment was regarded as something unspeakably dreadful in its day. The monitors that performed it are now being put in shape at League island, near Philadelphia, to assist the new monitors in making Spain's fleet disappear. There are six big turreted monitors in the American navy, any one of which naval experts declare able to give a terrific battle to any two of Spain's warships. Many naval officers have more faith in these than in any other defense that the United States has.

Extent of the Black Race.
According to computations the black race embraces about one-tenth of the living members of the human species, or 150,000,000 individuals.

the excitement and they were trying to call his attention to it.

Once on the outside he missed his coat, and then it all flashed upon him. But he would rather have lost his coat than have gone after it. Just as he was about to abandon the garment to the foreign missionary society a boy came along and he gave the youngster 25 cents to slip in and get the coat. When it was once more in his possession and he was on his way home he made a mental resolve that he would not go to church again until he was more composed.

Plot Enough for a Bank.
An ex-sea captain now living in Sydney, N. S. W., was many years ago in charge of a ship carrying some convicts. The convicts mutinied, murdered the crew and ordered the captain to navigate them to the islands, and, being a prudent man, he did so. When satisfied as to their course the convicts deliberated, decided that he had behaved himself well and put him ashore on the first large island they came to. He was a musician and took his violin with him. A threatening crowd of savages greeted his arrival, but the marooned captain played to them till they thought him a god, brought him unlimited pigs and yams and bowed in adoration. Finally he married the chief's daughter, succeeded him and ruled the island for years, till a ship called and he sailed away.

Bismarck's Sins.
Of the neuralgic pains in his face, which were so severe that he sometimes had to press the points of his fingers on his cheek bones for several minutes to secure a little relief, Bismarck was reported as saying: "This is quite natural. I have sinned in my life the most with my mouth, in eating, drinking and talking."